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Please send this to:



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# Mercurial Zine!

premier issue .50



**DANGER BOB**

**the Mr. T Experience**



# Welcome to Mercury!

Welcome to issue #1 of Mercurial Zine. It has been an wild ride getting this done, so I hope you enjoy it. I'm gonna try and have a new issue about every three months. You never know what you'll find in it, I'm going to try and have at least four or five interviews, a couple editorials from guest writers, album reviews, and whatever else needs to get out. If you have comments, or maybe even something I should put in, you can reach me by e-mail: hollandj@cctr.umkc.edu or 10951 Nieman Road, Overland Park, KS 66210, I can also be found at many local shows. Before we get into the good stuff, I want to shell out some thank-you's to everyone that had anything to do with this or my life in the last year or so (If you think that the order of this has anything to do with how much I appreciate you, your wrong): So here we go Lance, David, Jen, Andy, Jonathan, School Girl, Pigtales, Agent Secret, Knigole(Hitman), Brandon(Dee Dee's Kids), Phil (Trouble Bound), Matt(Rudenet) Danger Bob, Shallow, The Mr. T Experience, The Bill Wennington Fan Club, Buck from Moon, Isaac Green and the Skalars, Flux Skapacitor, the Shut-ups, the Holmes Band, Atomic Boy, Papa Chubby, Jason, Kevin & Anne, Dan, Anne B & Amy W, Amy S from St Louis, Kim, Greg, Sean N, John, Steph, Gray, Joey, Grossi, Terry, Theresa & Mindy, Alan at CD Warehouse, Stull Kansas, and if i forgot you don't be pissed, check next issue (or maybe it was intentional). Also mad props to the Gadjits and Jamie. Special Thank you to Gregg, Chris, and the entire Daily Grind crew. Also you, thank you for giving me a chance. Well, I guess that's about it on introductions so read on and please enjoy.

P.S. If you send comments or complaints please be nice, I hurt easily  
XOXO- Rob

P.P.S. Thanx to Seth Bahler for his help on the "Is ska becoming trendy" article. and also Tom Tomorrow for the back cover art.

Well...That was it. Thanks for visiting my world. Look for a new issue in a few months. I really appreciate you buying this and giving me a chance. If you have any suggestions write and do tell. Besides, I love mail.

Until next time Stay true to your scene, and I'll see ya at the shows..

P.S. Just so I don't get killed at the next show I'm at, let me explain, I like mosh pits as much as the next guy. But, you gotta realize, a lot of people are at shows to watch a band, not watch a steel tip end up in their face. Most people won't tell you this, but I will...STOP THOSE DAMN CIRCLE PITS. If you want to run laps, go to a gym. Most bands I talked to don't like those either. These are shows not the damn Olympics. the swaying back and forth thing is kool. But please, do not be a tough guy. Just be friendly in the pit and be kind to your neighbor.

XOXO

Hugs and Kisses

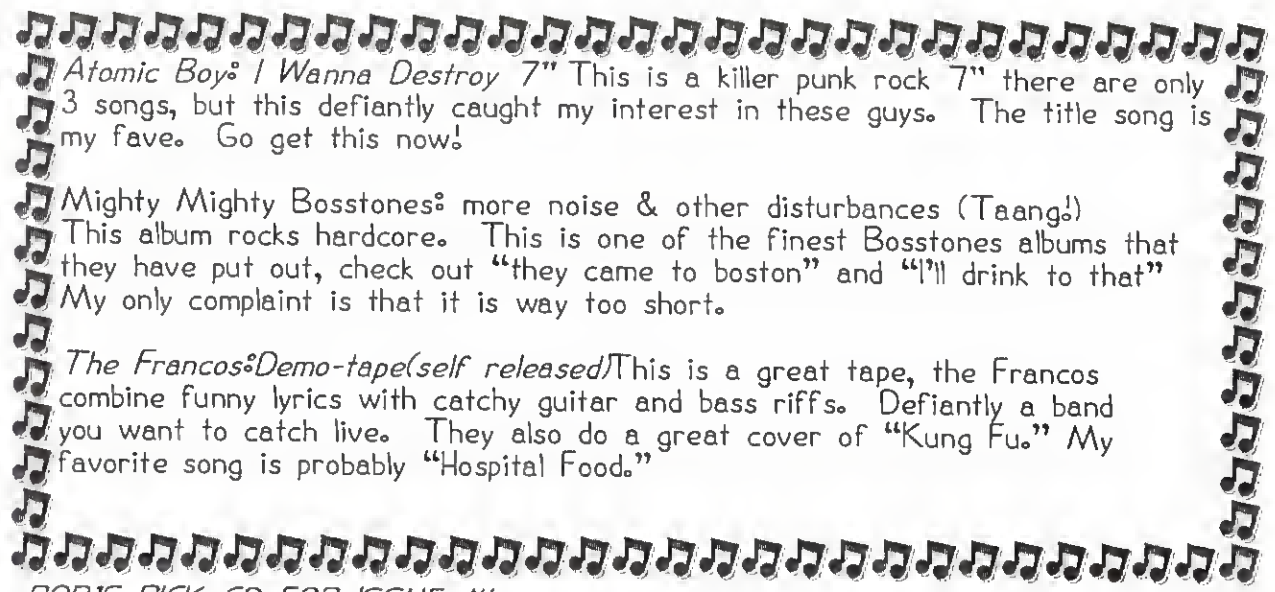
Luv-

rob

"Just Don't mosh next to me while I'm skankin!"-The Anklebiters

# Farewell!





Atomic Boy: I Wanna Destroy 7" This is a killer punk rock 7" there are only 3 songs, but this defiantly caught my interest in these guys. The title song is my fave. Go get this now!

Mighty Mighty Bosstones: more noise & other disturbances (Taang!) This album rocks hardcore. This is one of the finest Bosstones albums that they have put out, check out "they came to boston" and "I'll drink to that" My only complaint is that it is way too short.

The Francos: Demo-tape (self released) This is a great tape, the Francos combine funny lyrics with catchy guitar and bass riffs. Defiantly a band you want to catch live. They also do a great cover of "Kung Fu." My favorite song is probably "Hospital Food."

ROB'S PICK CD FOR ISSUE #1

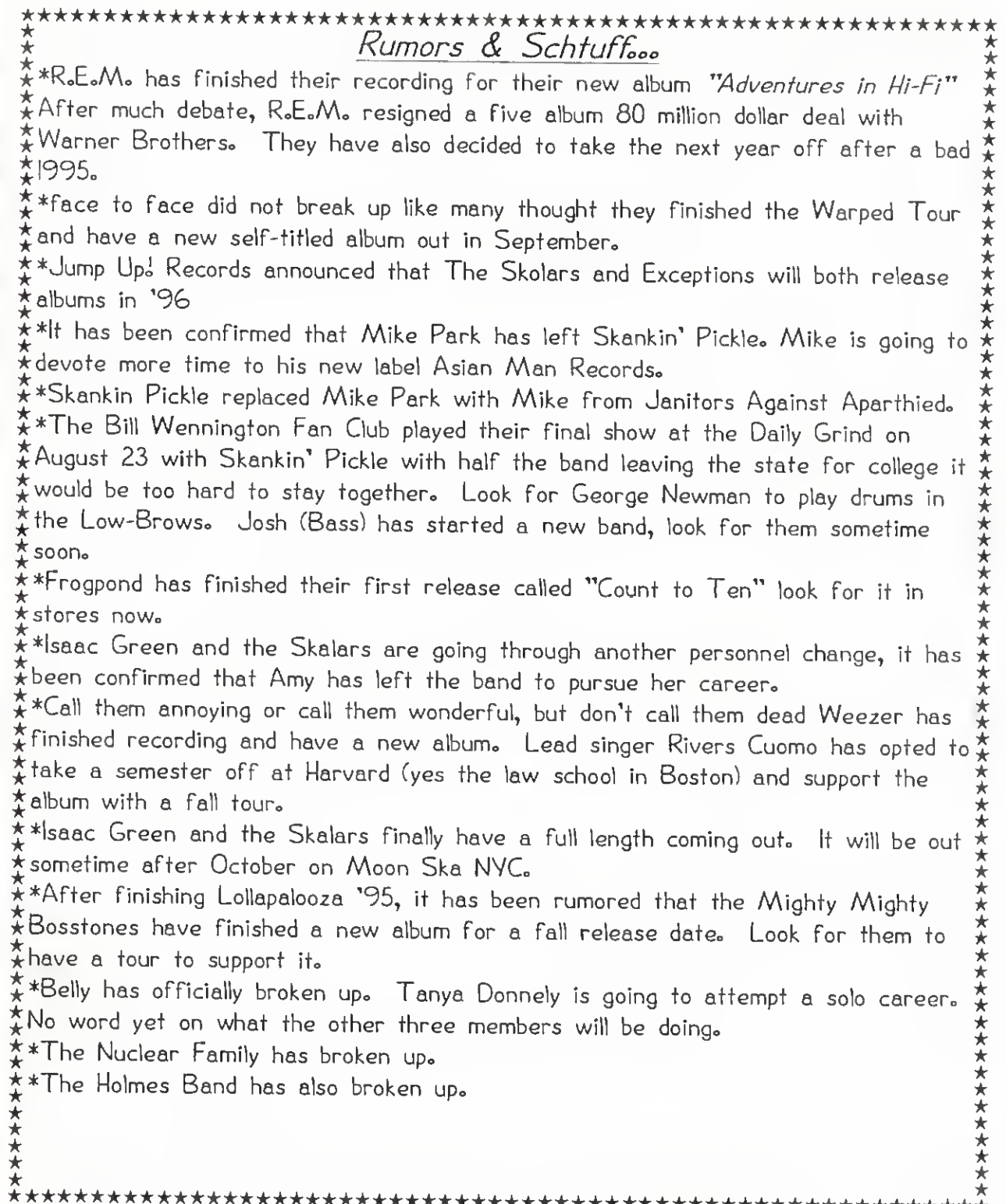
R.E.M. NEW ADVENTURES IN HI-FI I know that when you have high expectations for something, they are usually smashed to pieces when the event occurs. But, R.E.M. doesn't fail with their new album. They are themselves calling it their best album, and I'll have to agree. This isn't your usual studio album. A lot of this is live stuff from their Monster tour. Some of it was done during soundchecks, or in their dressing room, and a couple tracks are right from a live performance. some of the album was done in the studio though. This is also one of R.E.M.'s longer albums 14 songs, 65 minutes, there is only one song that is less than 4 minutes, most are longer than 5. Check out tracks 1, 3, 6, 12 and 14.

Demos and Samplers. These are those tapes you can find in stores or if your on band mailing lists you can get them. This is what I think of the samples.

Millencolin: Life on a plate sampler (Epitaph): These three songs rock. These guys are huge in Europe, and now they're bringing their sound to the states. They sound like a So Cal punk band. Give this a chance.

Ash: Trailer two song sampler (reprise) This is a rad punk band. If you saw the movie Angus, you heard them in the background. This is a rad tape too, definitely try to give this a listen.

Less Than Jake: Losing Streak (Dill records)  
Son of Pezcore 6 song sampler  
There is nothing quite like Less Than Jake live, so you can imagine how hard it would be to put this energy into an album... They make it seem so easy. Son of Pezcore rock and so does the Losing Streak Sampler. But I am more interested in hearing more of Losing Streak. Their sound is better, but I can't explain how.



Rumors & Schtuff...  
\*R.E.M. has finished their recording for their new album "Adventures in Hi-Fi"  
\*After much debate, R.E.M. resigned a five album 80 million dollar deal with Warner Brothers. They have also decided to take the next year off after a bad 1995.  
\*face to face did not break up like many thought they finished the Warped Tour and have a new self-titled album out in September.  
\*Jump Up! Records announced that The Skolars and Exceptions will both release albums in '96  
\*It has been confirmed that Mike Park has left Skankin' Pickle. Mike is going to devote more time to his new label Asian Man Records.  
\*Skankin Pickle replaced Mike Park with Mike from Janitors Against Aparthied.  
\*The Bill Wennington Fan Club played their final show at the Daily Grind on August 23 with Skankin' Pickle with half the band leaving the state for college it would be too hard to stay together. Look for George Newman to play drums in the Low-Brows. Josh (Bass) has started a new band, look for them sometime soon.  
\*Frogpond has finished their first release called "Count to Ten" look for it in stores now.  
\*Isaac Green and the Skalars are going through another personnel change, it has been confirmed that Amy has left the band to pursue her career.  
\*Call them annoying or call them wonderful, but don't call them dead Weezer has finished recording and have a new album. Lead singer Rivers Cuomo has opted to take a semester off at Harvard (yes the law school in Boston) and support the album with a fall tour.  
\*Isaac Green and the Skalars finally have a full length coming out. It will be out sometime after October on Moon Ska NYC.  
\*After finishing Lollapalooza '95, it has been rumored that the Mighty Mighty Bosstones have finished a new album for a fall release date. Look for them to have a tour to support it.  
\*Belly has officially broken up. Tanya Donnely is going to attempt a solo career.  
\*No word yet on what the other three members will be doing.  
\*The Nuclear Family has broken up.  
\*The Holmes Band has also broken up.

# shallow

I interviewed SHALLOW before their set on July 27 at Gee Coffee. They are a great band so if you ever get the chance go and see them live.

So tell me your name and what you do for the band...

Julie: That's Stephen he plays drums.

Jason: I'm Jason, I play Bass.

Julie: I'm the caterer, i also make sandwiches, i also play guitar and sing sometimes. There's also Ryan, he's not here right now.

How long have ya'll been together?

Julie: Three years in August.

I know you guys loved the Rhumba Box, is there anywhere here that is comparable to it?

Stephen: It's hard to compare anywhere to there. . . it was just different.

Jason: Yeah, our friend owned it and we opened for some really great bands.

Julie: A bunch of the bands we opened for are "bigger" now.

Stephen: Bedhead, Cahtherine, Spoonanzee (I think that's what he said--rob)

Julie: That's also where we practiced. The only thing that we could compare it to is probably here (Gee Coffee).

What was your favorite show that you played?

(At this point Ryan walked in)

Stephen: It was probably the Flaming Lips at the Granada.

Jason: Spirit Fest, the year before last was cool.

Julie: There was that show in New York with Sonic Boom.

Is there a show you wish never happened?

Stephen: West Virginia.

Jason: Without a doubt.

Julie: If you want a bad place to play, go to the Empty Glass in Charleston, West Virginia, it sucks, tell everyone it sucks.

Ryan: If I was at a show and saw us playing my first instinct would not be to throw

things at us. Some people thought different

What was Lollapalooza 1995 like?

Julie: It was great we got asked to do it in Kansas City and then ended up doing twenty-three more shows.

Isaac Green and the Skalars: Strikeout Summer 7" (JoCo Ska) this is a great record and it's three dollars, you can afford to support great ska for that much. this is three songs of smooth ska. this is also the only I.G.T.S. recording you'll find since the junbox 7" is out of print and no one has it. Buy this.

Rancid: Let's Go (Epitaph) You're darn right Let's go. This album rocks as much as ...And Out Come the Wolves. It's way punk, my favorite is probably Radio! or Salvation BUY THIS DISC.

The Mad Butchers: tape (Self released) I caught these cats at the Scofflaws/ Pietasters show a couple months ago. They are awesome. This was a four song tape that left me screaming for more. "give it up" is probably my favorite song (you can also find it on American Skathic 4) As far as comparisons go, I can't place the influence.

The Return of American Skathic: the Midwest Strikes Back! (Jump Up!) This disc kicks. toss this in your player and you'll be doing the ska in no time. 26 awesome track from some kickin' Midwest bands, my favorite tracks are probably the Mad Butchers, Skamakaze, and of course the Gadjits. If you're into the old instrumental thing, fret not there are some of them too. Like the other Skathic's, there is awesome Evan Dorkin art on the cover.

Flux Skapacitator: Self titled I first heard these guys on Skathic 4 It was a good song. I picked up their CD at a show they had here and let me tell ya, there are only 6 songs and that is my only complaint. There should be more. This will probably be a hard disc to find, but I highly recommend it. There's some swing, ska, and something, it's a great disc. Just way to short. It'll make ya dance though

The Toasters: Dub 56 (Moon Records) this is one of my favorite Toasters albums This Starts great, ends great, and everything in between will have you doing the ska in no time. My favorite has to be Legal shot. Buy this for good ska.

The Pietasters: oolooloo (Moon Records) these guys are probably one of my favorite ska bands. This whole album rules. They do a great cover of the Motown classic Same Old Song. My favorites are Maggie Mae and Movin' on Up. they got a lot of different types of music added to their blend of ska which makes for a great dessert.

Shallow: 3-D Stereo Trouble (Zero Hour) This is such a good album. It's hard to describe what Shallow plays but if you like Sonic Youth you'll probably dig it. Be sure to check out track 14 (Just for Today) and Track 6 (I wonder). This album covers a wide spectrum of sound, and is definitely worth checking out. Julie's vocals will be spinning in your head long after you listen to this.



I Shot Andy Warhol! Soundtrack (Atlantic Records) When I saw this I picked it right up and got it I was mesmerized that so many great bands were on it, then I realized all good bands usually equals few good songs. It has its good points, a great R.E.M. song, And great tracks from Bettie Serveert and Yo La Tengo. It also has the classic "Kick Out the Jams" by MC5 and a great instrumental by John Cale. The rest is decent but you might want to give it a listen first.

Garbage: Self-titled (DGC) I bought this disc on a total whim I had no idea what was on it, but I remember hearing nothing but good things about it. I was shocked when I heard "Queer" I remember hearing it on the radio but never knew who it was by. (Soon after that they released their other singles.) The rest of the album rocks, so I highly suggest this one. Shirley's voice will be running through your head long after you listen to this, she has one of the best voices I have ever heard.

Danger Bob: Le Pop Shoppe (Gooseboy) Take They Might Be Giants give them power chords and distortion and you have one of Lawrence's best bands. The lyrics are awesome, and fun to sing along to I highly recommend you support the local scene and go buy this soon. Check Show listings for these guys to they love to play all ages shows and play at least two or three times a month.

Screeching Weasel: Anthem For a New Tomorrow (Lookout! Records) this is by far one of the best punk albums I have bought in the last year. My favorite is probably "Falling Apart" but the rest of the album rocks hard. This is an awesome album that is fun to sing along with so go get it now.

Saturday Morning: Cartoon's Greatest Hits (MCA) This is more or less a fun disc, when you don't know what to listen to this is good to throw in the player. There is a great cover of "Josie and the Pussycats" done by Juliana Hatfield and Tanya Donnelly. This disc also has the Ramones (Spiderman), face to face (Popeye), Sublime (Hong Kong Phooey). The rest of the bands are decent, my only complaint is that some of the songs should have been done by other bands. This is good fun at parties.

if I were a Carpenter (A&M Records) this is a great tribute album to the Carpenters. It's a great disc that introduced me to some cool bands and had great songs by bands I already knew about. My favorite songs are probably Superstar (Sonic Youth) and Yesterday Once More (Red Kross). I recommend this one highly.

Green Day: Insomniac (Reprise Records) Quit your whining, if you were offered more tour support and money and more benefits for your band you take the offer. This is a great album, it's better than Dookie, i can tell you that much. Probably as good as Kerplunk but it is way harder.

What do you like best about the Kansas City scene?

Ryan: It's really layed back.

Stephen: The Kansas City bands are usually nice.

Jason: Unlike California.

Stephen: California sucks.

Julie: All you have to do is buy an instrument in California and that's your license to be a rock star.

Stephen: and have an attitude.

What do you dislike most about the Kansas City scene?

Ryan: Not enough clubs and the lack of people at shows. People need to go to shows.

Who would you say influenced you most?

Jason: Girls in fish-net stockings.

Julie: Olivia Newton John.

Ryan: The Cure, Spacemen 3, Sonic Youth, Rollerskate Skinny, Horsedrawn Wishes, Everyone needs to hear that.

What are your immediate plans for the rest of the year and into next?

Julie: We're going to tour Europe and record a new record when we come back in about two months.

Ryan: Keith Cleversly is going to produce it. He did Hum's album, the Flaming Lips, and Mercury Rev among others.

Thanks for the interview guys and gal. Shallow plays local shows frequently and you can reach them at this address:

SHALLOW

P.O. Box 40243

Overland Park, Kansas 66204-4243

## KC Teens bid Farewell to Daily Grind, But...

In the quest to please everyone under 18 in Kansas City, it seems that no one has yet to figure out how to keep an all ages club open for more than a year. After a long battle, one more of these clubs, the Daily Grind, was forced to shut its doors. While there is much controversy as to why the club closed this is what I do know.

1.) the landlord of the building the Daily Grind occupied was under a lot of pressure from the Owners of the Grand Emporium and the Unicorn Theater to close the Daily Grind.

2.) The Daily Grind people are looking into some new locations.

3.) Greg (the owner) is not going to buy Gee Coffee or the Grand Emporium like so many people thought.

4.) While some of the shows that were scheduled have been rescheduled at Gee Coffee, most of the shows are cancelled.

What can you do to help.

1.) When and if the Grind reopens, keep all of the drugs and alcohol in your cars, don't try to bring it in. Cops hate these kind of places and would love to have a reason to bust the Grind.

2.) Take your fights elsewhere. (why not in front of the Grand Emporium)

3.) Support the scene. You have to realize that the people that work at the Daily Grind don't have have to do what they're doing. they could all be working somewhere else making a lot more money. If you don't show up then why should they?

4.) Just don't do anything that would piss anyone off.

We can get this to work out and get all ages shows back in KC.

The bands I have talked to enjoy playing in KC and all ages shows, so we need to make it so no one has a reason to want to shut down the clubs.

P.S. There has been a charity set up through Joco Ska so send Donations to

Joco Ska Records

attn: Save the Daily Grind

12614 Overbrook

Leawood, KS 66209

Okay Here's the Deal, since I'm not on any promo lists, for now, I'm going to review what i have until i get newer stuff. So please forgive me if you're reading a review of something you already got. P.S. if you're in a band send me your recordings and I'll be sure to review them. (it don't matter what format, cause I got access to everything.)

*The GADJITS: Da Gravy on Yo GRITS (JoCo Ska)* Finally after waiting for almost two years, the Gadjits have released a full length album. This is one of the best ska albums I've seen in a while. if you never got their 5-song demo, you're in luck, all but Pin It On Me made the cut. And they're rerecorded and sound better than the tape. The Phillips' did their regular ska added a dash of punk and even a little rocksteady for a wonderful recipe. my personal favorite track is probably "Forever."

*Nuclear Family: Ripped Off (Manic Records)* How many reviews do you have to read before you buy this? If you don't have this put this down and go and get it NOW! Travis and Justin (from a band that shall remain nameless) joined forces with current 110 volts drummer Thomas and have put together 13 killer punk rawk songs. I can't stress enough how good this is. If you like Screaching Weasel, you'll love this.

*Angus Soundtrack (Reprise Records)* I think you'll realize that I don't need to tell you my opinion when you see what bands are on this disc. Ash, Green Day, Riverdales, Pansy Division, Dance Hall Crashers, the Muffs and more. this is a great soundtrack. I think all of the songs are on each bands own album, so that's my only problem with it.

*Rancid: ...And Out Come The Wolves (Epitaph Record)* I'm not even going to ask you why you don't own this. Nineteen awesome songs on this album, and I don't think that there is one bad one in the bunch. If you liked the singles they released all the other songs are way better than them. Buy this disc! Avenues & Alleyways is an awesome track that I love Oi! Oi! Oi!

*The Mr. T Experience: Love is Dead (Lookout! Records)* I got this only a couple of days after they came last time, and now I'm hitting myself for not going. This is a great fun pop-punk album. It's also great driving music. If they keep putting out stuff like this then they'll be around for a long time, (not that they haven't already).

*The Riverdales: self-titled (Lookout! Records)* I caught these three ragamuffins at Memorial Hall (when they came with Green Day) in November. They were awesome. If you don't know what they sound like you might be able to compare them to the Ramones. It's not a long album which is about my only complaint, and rumor has it they broke up but this is definitely one disc you should pick up.



Garbage, Shallow (Granada)

This was such an awesome show. It was my first time at the Granada and I loved it. Shallow started the night off and since it was my first time hearing them, I didn't know what to expect. They ruled. I didn't catch many titles, but most of what they played is on "3-D Stereo Trouble". Then Garbage came out. I had no idea what they would do live but they kicked ass. They played the entire album, and a couple of unreleased tracks. This show ended way to soon.

R.E.M. Sonic Youth (Sandstone)

This was one of the best concerts in '95. Sonic Youth played for about 45 minutes (which is my only complaint). They played a couple off the new album, a couple off of "Goo" and a couple tracks from "Experimental Jet Set Trash and No Star." Then came the big moment R.E.M., I had heard good and bad about them performing live, but all of the negative comments were wrong. They played most of "Monster" and even had about 1/3 of the set be their old stuff (which is all awesome). They also played a couple new songs.

Selecter, Skeletones, Secretaries (Daily Grind)

Why didn't you show up. You missed one hell of a good show. The Secretaries started the evening off right. Then out come the skeletones they had the crowd going, I didn't catch titles but I defiantly want to check out their album. Then the Selecter came out. They played all of their classics and a cool song called James Bond. It was a great show why weren't you there.

The Break-ups, The Smugglers, The Queens (Daily Grind)

Now I know that you were at this show. The Grind was packed for an evening of great punk rock. The Break-ups started this evening off with their usual stuff. Then the Smugglers came on. I definitely want to check these guys' album out. They were a great pop-punk band. My favorite song from their set was "She's No Egyptian." Then the Queens finished off the evening. They played a little bit from each of their albums and a couple new songs, they kicked ass. This also ended up being the final Daily Grind Show.

Let's Go Bowling, Reel Big Fish, Cherry Poppin Daddies (Granada)

This was a great evening of ska... The Cherry Poppin Daddies were rad. They played a nice mixture of danceable swing ska. The bad thing about it was that they only played a ten song set. I only caught a little Reel Big Fish, but I liked what I saw. I missed LGB but my friends said that they were phenomenal.

# ANGER BOB

I talked with Danger Bob after their awesome set that almost didn't happen at the Daily Grind on July 31 and it went something like this. . .

State your name and what you do for the band.

Kenny G.: I'm Kenny G., I'm the drummer.

Andy.: I'm Andy, I play guitar and sing.

Jason.: I'm Jason, I play bass amongst other things.

Where did the name "Danger Bob" come from?

A.: Next question, you're not going to get the answer here.

K.: Andy's grandmother was a spy in World War II, and that was her code name.

A.: Not true.

J.: Theory number 2 Danger Bob has to do with the Church and the theory of the subgenus

How did you form?

J.: Andy and I were in a band called the "Patty Duke Experience" which broke up because the other two people ended up doing bigger and better things...literally. Seth Wiley who now is an incredibly successful commercial director in Los Angeles, and Mike Bryant who is Wowing the theater crowd in Chicago. We needed two bums to get drunk with, so hence come Karl and Kenny.

A.: Karl weaseled his way in. he said you can use my house to practice in so I'd like to be in the band. Then Karl came down to Florida got me drunk and asked what was the deal about our band. and I said oh yeah we should start a band. Then Kenny, when he found out our old drummer was leaving, waited until I was good and drunk-

K.: I found out from my ex-girlfriend. She said "I'm trying out for a band!"

"Really, your pretty shitty on drums."

She said "it's Danger Bob."

then I got this funny look in my eye "Really, I like Danger Bob."

"If you do what I think you're gonna do, I'm gonna kick your ass."

Then I cornered Andy at the Jazz House one night "So ya tried out Kim"

"Yeah" "So ya probably need a drummer."

A.: Well me and Jason both agreed on a Girl Drummer

(this went on for a while and this question was finished with this)

A.: So Kenny weaseled his way in.

Who are your major influences as a musician or in life.

A: Black Sabbath >:-)

J: Uh... that Kramer guy from Seinfeld

A: There's a lot of Dead Milkmen, Ramones, and a lot of classic rock.

K: and for Andy, a lot of **MICKY MOUSE**

A: There's some, not a lot. A lot of English pop Bands. Ned's Atomic Dustbin.

J: Originally we were going to be Ned's Atomic Dustbin, we were looking for a second Bass player... cause I'm no good.

A: Too Much Joy meets Ramones meets Replacements.

I've actually heard a lot of people compare you to Too Much Joy.

J: We were actually fortunate enough to play a couple of shows with them... That made us really excited.

Tell me about a best show that sticks out in your mind.

J: One of my favorite shows would have to be when we opened up for They Might Be Giants at the Granada, Because we hadn't played in like three months, had two practices beforehand, and I never had a chance to legitimately tell my parents "look there is a reason I dropped out of school. I get to play in front of 700 people.

And the first song, we played "Incredidome" and all these people, I had never met were up in front of the stage wanting to see me play my bass. the first song ended I turned around and took a sip of beer and I hear this (Sound effect) crowd

cheering, it was like a sample from one of the Kiss Live albums. and I was like yep this is why I've been doing this.

A: That might not have been our best show but it opened a lot of doors and got us throughout the last year.

To every positive, there is a negative... maybe a bad show experience.

K: Which one?

(After much Debate... Survey Says!)

A: Cedar Falls, Iowa we were all too drunk-

K: We were "hammered." I got mad at Andy, does Kenny ever get mad... NO.

J: Mine was in Des Moines. I had to play a borrowed bass that sucked, and an amp that was even worse.

A: I think what it all boils down to is that we're very hard on each other and someone that messes up. When someone messes up, we make a spectacle of it.

We practice fairly often (the others laugh and comment how they never get invited to those practices) You can walk in, play a bad show, and have people get into it meanwhile afterwards, your in the back screaming "What about this?" or "What about that?"

(to prove this they got into one of these debates in the middle of the interview)

*Frogpond, tv fifty, Danger Bob (Daily Grind)*

Three of the best KC bands played on this night. First Frogpond came out, after hearing a lot about them, I was excited that I would finally get to see them. It was well worth the wait. I didn't catch many titles but the four girls rocked out a great set. Then tv fifty came out, good band. I had only heard one song from them and I really liked it so I was really looking forward to seeing them. They put on a great set. Then Danger Bob came on They rocked out an awesome set playing old and new stuff. The best thing was that even though that day was stressful for them, they still came and rocked out and did great.

*Holmes Band, flux Skapacater, Norman 360, Isaac green and the Skalars (Granada)*

Let me just start off by saying you weren't there, big mistake. The Holmes Band rocked out a very annoyingly short set, but they were great as usual. Then Flux Skapacater came out. They are one of the best ska bands that has come out of Minnesota in the last year. I couldn't believe how good they were. I talked a little with them after their set and they were incredibly nice. Their set was great. Now here's the mistake I made: I had to leave so I missed the last two bands.

*Isaac Green and the Skalars, the Gadji's, the Secretaries (Daily Grind)*

The secretaries started the night off and they were a great way to start off. I only heard them cause I was in the back. but they were good. Then the Gadji's came on, I think that the crowd was terribly excited to see them since they hadn't played KC in a while. They played a lot of new stuff that rules. they have more of a ska/rocksteady/ soul sound that rules. then Isaac Green and the Skalars came on they were a great way to close the evening. They played as good as they always do for about 45 minutes.

*Mr T Experience, Atomic Boy, Sunshine Vandalis (Daily Grind)*

I missed the first band so to be fair, I won't review them, The second band was the Sunshine Vandalis. They were pretty good, it will be interesting to see them in a year or two if they stay together. They played a good set and ended it with a continuous 5 song Ramones cover song. Then Atomic Boy came on, They rocked hard. If you ever have a chance to see them go. Then the Mr. T Experience came on. This was the first time I had seen them, but they had the whole crowd into the show, They played mostly stuff off of Love is Dead, and a few other songs. One of the highlights was when they let the audience request the next song.



Now here is something else I do with my time, I go to shows. So here's a few of the shows I have been to in the last few months.

### *Mad Butchers, Isaac Green and the Skalars, the Pietasters, Scofflaws (Daily Grind)*

I feel guilty because I got to the show late so I missed the already short Mad Butchers set. What I did see was great. Then Isaac Green and the Skalars came on, they ruled as usual. They played a great set that had the entire crowd doing the ska. Then Out come the Pietasters, I had only heard Night Before from them so I had no idea what to expect. They opened up their set with the Fat Albert Theme song, and played most of their second album. They ruled, their lead singer came out in a shiny silver suit and a pair of silver Dr. Marten's with 4 inch platforms on them. I couldn't get enough of them. My only complaint of them is that their set was too short. Then the Scofflaws came out, They were a good way to end the evening. I only caught a couple of the titles but I liked William Shatner the best.

### *Warped Tour '96 (Sandstone)*

I'll only tell you which bands I enjoyed most. Pennywise was great, this was also the first time I saw them so I didn't know what to expect. NOFX ruled they had the crowd in one of the best pits all day. face to face was also rad. the other bands that I'm glad I caught were CIV, Red Five and Rocket From the Crypt. This was a great idea for a tour. The great thing was that each stop had a different line-up, which kind of sucked cause I heard a couple bands I liked had just stopped their run before Kansas.

### *the Toasters, Spring-heeled Jack, Bill Wennington Fan Club (Daily Grind)*

The Fan club started this evening off right playing their usual set. Then Spring-heeled Jack came out they had the Grind Moving on it's foundation. then the Toasters finished the evening playing old and new stuff. It was all great even though I was stuck at the merchandise table all night.

### *Mustard Plug, Mephiskapheles, Let's Go Bowling (Daily Grind)*

Mustard Plug was really good, they played most of Big Daddy Multitude and a couple more. They didn't seem really tight that night but the crowd was so into it, it really didn't matter. Then Mephiskapheles came out, The Daily Grind was as hot as Hell. they pumped out most of God Bless Satan. Let's Go Bowling had to follow, the crowd was getting tired but it didn't seem to matter, They pumped out old and new. My favorite was a train song, (I missed the title) Myself and Adam Phillips had a train started in the Grind, it was a rad evening.

What are the chances of the first album being reprinted?

J: well one problem is, none of us own a copy.

K: another problem is that, I'm not on that album, the other drummer is. So we'll have to see what he wants to do with the money if anything.

A: Another problem is that, we don't play most of that stuff anymore. we'd have to redo some of the stuff. That album was us learning how to write songs. And for us to put it out for the sake of "Oh I wanted to hear this song" is lame.

Speaking of the old drummer, is he Good terms or...

J: Yes he's great terms, he's going to be the best man at my wedding. He is now in the Bubble Boys.

A: A band that ripped us off.

They ripped you off? I thought you were friends?

J: oh, we are. we're friends with them like we are with each other. Let them defend it, they'll definitely have something to say back at us.

Is there one question you hate getting asked?

A: Yes, the way you pronounce the name of the band is DANGER bob. Accent on the first syllable of the first word. . . DANGER bob  
As opposed to?  
danger BOB (stressing the "bob")



Jason playing his bass guitar



Andy plays guitar



Karl sings and plays the guitar

What Do you think is the best and worst part of the KC/Lawrence scene?

J: The best part about his scene is nights like tonight. Our van broke down, we couldn't haul or stuff and tv fifty and Frogpond let us use their stuff. This happens all of the time, in this scene, there's no competition, no one saying I'm gonna get signed before you, and I'm gonna get this headline spot.

A: Frogpond won, anyway.

A: The worst part is, there's a big click in KC. A lot of people aren't interested in seeing a new band. For the most part, the bands that are big are either funky or noisy. There's not a lot of pop stuff coming out There's Outhouse, Go Kart, Cher UK, Nuclear Family, tv fifty, and the Francos. A lot of the bands that have the big following don't fit into what were doing. It's hard to get in with these bands because were so different. It's not a knock, but they're not going to put us with Season to Risk, they might put us with Pamper the Madman But they're not going to put us with a lot of bands. I'm gonna go right a head and say it, a lot of these bands don't want to play with us because we'll blow them out of the water. We have had bands tell us that they don't want to play with us because they'll get made fun of or that we put on a better show. We have had national bands say you should play after us because they don't want to play after us. Fine, I'm a conceited asshole I don't give a shit. I don't think that the music industry as a whole likes bands that are funny and especially when it gets into sarcasm.

Is there anything else you want people to know about you or . . . ?

A: We need a new van. We're gonna steamroll the competition this year.

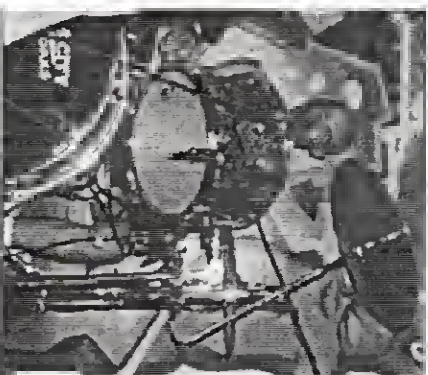
J: We're going to kill people. That's it

K: and if not we're gonna go the the New Zoo and kill random animals, if we can find them. (the opinions that Danger Bob have towards the New Zoo do not reflect those of me or anyone associated with)

thank you very much guys. Danger Bob is doing a little experimenting in the studio right now and will keep on gigging around KC and Lawrence so keep an eye out for them. Also, they recently played in the ticketmaster music showcase and advanced to the next round, Hopefully, I'll have an update in issue two.

Send flowers, cookies,  
and other good things  
to:

Danger Bob  
P.O. Box 442006  
Lawrence, KS 66044



Kenny G bangs drums.

Why do you think Ska is becoming so big again? And what do you think of the bands that are being considered ska today?

I don't see how it has come back, there are no record sales numbers. No bands are cracking the top 200 like the Specials, Madness or the Selector. There are some bands having some cross over success, but I'm sure if you accused them of not being ska that they would not get offended. But as far as ska bands today, I don't see the numbers that prove that it is becoming so mainstream.

Do you think it will get big again any time soon?

I don't know it depends. there is supposed to be a feeding frenzy from major labels on ska bands but that hasn't happened yet. Of course, they could screw it up, you never know. I'd like it to get more popular.

So what do you think of those ska bands that throw on one ska beat song or the band that call themselves ska and you don't know why?

I have no problem with a band playing a ska influenced song. The Rancid song, timebomb was definitely one of the ones I liked better than most of their stuff. I like hearing the upbeat on a pop song. But if the kids like that, they should hear Hepcat, It would blow them away. I like that kids are grooving to ska though, it's better than grunge.

Of all the types of ska why did you end up sounding the way you did? Or was it just something that fell into place?

We based our reflection on our record collections. We listen to a lot of ska, reggae, swing, rocksteady, jazz and soul. Our keyboardest listens to pop-punk. so it just fell into place.

Is there any band you look at and say wow I really want to play with them, or do you as a band even do that?

We want to play with a good band, that's what we look forward to, We watch the bands we play with, we learn from them. I don't want to say we're stealing their licks, we're learning.

Anything else you want to add?

We're here to entertain, we hope you enjoy it and dance.

As mentioned above, Isaac Green and the Skalars have a new album out this fall on Moon Ska records. They also are planning a tour next month, so watch for them in your town.



# Isaac Green and the Skalars

I sat down with Isaac Green of Isaac Green and the Skalars after their show at the Daily Grind on September 1st. He had a lot to say so please read on.

Just for stating facts, your name and what you do in the band.

My name is Isaac Green, and I do steps and shouts for Isaac Green and the Skalars.

So I don't ask this question and piss you off, what's the one question you hate getting asked and answer it if you like.

We don't get any annoying questions, the only bands that get annoying questions are the ones that sign to major labels.

I heard that you got a CD coming out, when can we expect that?

Also, I heard that it's coming out on JoCo Ska, but I also heard Moon, so set that rumor straight.

The CD is coming out on Moon Ska. Bucket said he'd put it out if he liked it, he heard the D.A.T.(Digital Audio Tape) and liked it so... we are now on Moon Records. But it isn't an exclusive contract, we can still work with other labels like JoCo Ska.

I heard that a lot of personnel changes are happening in the band so if you might be able to explain the situation.

The only person that is leaving is Amy, because basically she didn't want to tour, and we did. She also was the only person in the band that had a job. For the rest of us that's why we're in a band. Two of the players, Evan and Michelle, probably won't make all of the shows so we might have to get some auxiliary players for the road. We do, however have a new tenor sax player, Emily Jarvis, who will be a permanent member.

We may get another trumpet player to fill out the horn section.

So what is the best or worst part of being in Isaac Green and the Skalars?

Well the best part is playing, the worst part is I can't play anything very well. Also, the worst part is not doing anything in cool cities. You go hang out in the club for about two hours go get something to eat, come back play load out. By that time, you're to tired to do anything. So all you ever get to know is the two blocks around a club.

*I'd like my stuff back please...*

Recently I had a really bad experience at a show that really pissed me off. I parked my car, locked it and went into a show just like I always do. When I came back after the show, I got into my car and noticed that my stereo wasn't in my trunk where I put it, then I noticed that a CD wallet I had was also missing. After frantically looking, I assumed that I never put it in my car, and I left them at home (very wishful thinking). I got home and they weren't there. I have my guess as to how they (the thieves) got into my car without breaking the window but that doesn't help me at all. Both my insurance and police said that there wasn't much they could do to get my stuff back. It isn't just the fact that someone took my stuff, it's the fact that they had such a lack of respect for someone else's property. I know what your saying "they're only CD's" But they weren't to me. That CD wallet had two years of hard shopping, going to shows, and making lucky finds. So if you happen to be reading this, and you're the person that has them, you can feel free to get them back to me, I'll make copies of what you want and I swear that it will be no questions asked. Personally, I'm sure that you're not enjoying them because most people I know don't like most of those discs anyway, and if you are reading this and happen to know the person that took them, I am asking you to please contact me, if and when I get them back you'll get some sort of reward. Just think about this next time you find something. You may be happy that you have something new, but put yourself in the shoes of the person that lost the stuff, don't you think that they might want it back. It's so pathetic to work your ass off for something and then have someone take it away from you.



# The Mr. T Experience

I hooked up with the Mr. T Experience after their awesome set on Sept 28. I also want to thank Brandon from Dee Dee's Kids who looked on and help with this interview. Please read on.

State your name and what you do or your position in the band.

Joel: My name is Joel and my position is being the new kid.

Dr. Frank: He's the bass player

Jim: Jim, drums and stuff.

Dr. Frank: and I am Dr. Frank and my position is entertainer. • I'm, the singer.

Where did the "doctor" come from?

Dr.: Well, I won't lie to ya, there's no good answer to that question, I have no earthly idea, it's just what my mom named me. It's strange having a first name like "Doctor," all the kids teased me, but my mom thought it was funny.

What was the tour in Japan like?

Dr.: It was like we were some type of American Beetle and all of these Asians entomologists flocking around us to observe and adore. They were very enthusiastic and wild. we got recognized on the street, which usually doesn't happen. • Well it happens on this street in KC (Main). I signed so many autographs, I signed my name more times than ever before.

Joel: And now there are more photos in existence of us with our arms around tiny Asian children than the Mother Theresa with her arms around the arms of Asian children.

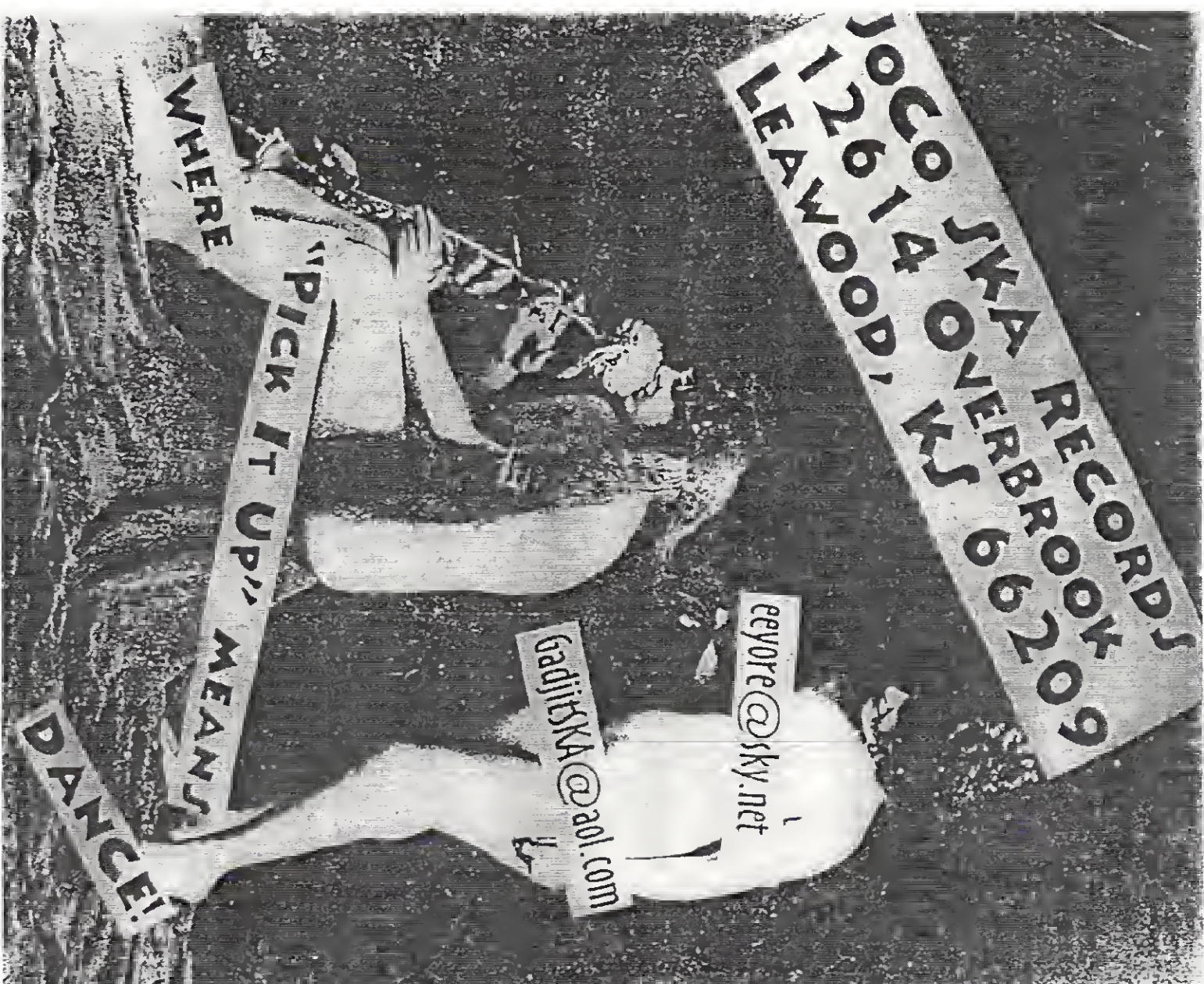
Everything about the experience was superlative. They were rabid, They couldn't get enough of us.

Dr.: -Which is so weird that usually doesn't happen. I had heard other bands say that going to Japan is really fun and really wild. I thought if anyone could break that streak, it would be us, and as it turned out, no it worked for us too.

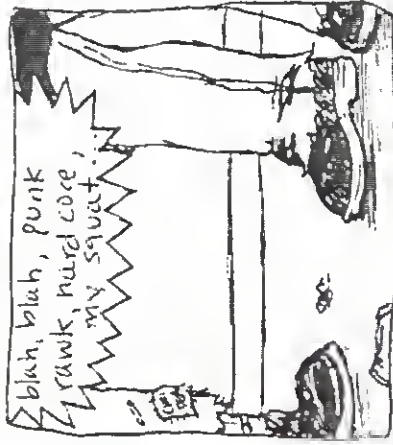
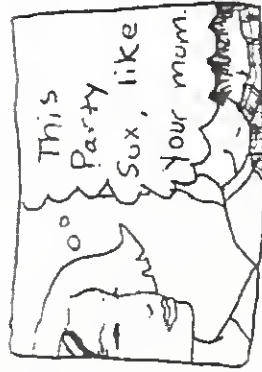
Where do you think the best crowds?

Joel: We're in Kansas City right now, right?

Dr.: Kansas City is the best place to play in the state of Missouri, Although St. Louis is a close second (for all of our St. Louis customers). Japan was the best tour we only did five shows but. • • you never know, you can go to one city and think "wow this is the best ever," and then go back and the only person in the back is a drunk guy saying "play Mellon Collie baby." you never know how it's gonna be.







ANNE BRAZEL.

## UPCOMING SHOWS

Oct 31 (Gee Coffee) Low Brows

Oct 31 Dee Dee's kids Punk Rock Halloween

BitchSlap, The Distorted, The Saps

(JoCo kids take 1-35 North to 1-635 North

Missouri kids take 1-35 South to 1-635 North Everyone take Shawnee Drive exit, left across bridge first right, 44th Terr, last house on right 2609)

Nov 1 (Bottleneck) Bouncing Souls, Black Label, Second Hands,

Nuclear Family(if they're together)

Nov 6 George Clinton & the P-funk AllStars

Nov 10 (Granada) Mighty Mighty Bosstones, Hepcat

Nov 11 (Granada) Weezer

Nov 22 (Liberty Hall) Descendents, Swingin Utters, Schlepprock,

Suicide Machines

Nov 29 (Memorial Hall) They Might Be Giants

Nov 30 (GRANADA) Danger Bob, BUBBLE BOYS, THE FRANCOIS

Brandon: did you guys play in Hiroshima or Nagasaki?

Dr.: No, we played Hiroshima, and it's looking good, it's perking right up.

Joel: Give it another thousand years...

Brandon: Your lyrics rhyme a lot, are you influenced by rap?

Dr.: you know, I'm not, mostly because I don't know much about it so my impression of it is probably wrong.

Jim: to all our customers who love rap, we love rap. Heavy D, Busta Rhymes, all of it, we love.

Dr.: Anyway, most of the rhymes are based on mispronunciation of the word, it's not that impressive if you can make anything rhyme with anything if you mispronounce the second syllable.

Do you have any interesting tour stories?

Dr.: well today we met some nice gentlemen from Bob Dole's home state (Kansas). It was about diversity, it's about America and helping, reaching out.

One of them had been to California in the 50's and was surprised to learn that the population had risen since then. They like how it's flat so you can see where you are and not get lost.

Joel: when he saw our gear he said "well if I didn't know better I'd say you boys were in a rock band." then we confirmed that yes indeed we were in a rock band his common reference point was "Ah, just like on Star Search."

Dr.: He suggested that we go on Star Search.

Jim: It was the first time he had heard of Sawyer Brown.

Joel: He said that, that Sinbad fellow got his start as well.

After a Bob Dole comment:

Joel: You know, Bob Dole is missing a shoulder from the war, so he keeps his hand in his pocket or carries a pencil.

Dr.: It gives him a whimsical look, like a jaunty air. I don't men to make fun of crippled people. To all of our crippled customers, we love you especially your leader Bob Dole. But, you have to admit it does look funny.

What's the best or worst thing about the punk scene?

Dr.: When the big guys knock down the girls, When they run around and do laps in a circle. That's great that they have so much stamina but all of the good people can't watch the show. There was a guy last night at the show and knocked over this little girl, how could you do that.

Joel: also the good looking people are forced to the back.

Jim: to all of our fat sweaty customers, we love you.

## *Is ska becoming too trendy?*

This seems to be a very popular question these days. Ska has become very popular again in the 90's with mainstream bands introducing more people to the 'sound' of ska that in turn gets them into other ska bands. We really won't be able to point fingers at one band for letting this happen. Obviously, many people point to Goldfinger and No Doubt and say that they're screwing it up. I'll have to admit that I agree. But, it isn't their fault, if you were to ask either of those bands what kind of music they are, they would say pop. I think the good thing is that these bands don't seem to be declaring themselves ska, Goldfinger says that they're trying to be old school punk...I guess that's another debate.

"The way I see it, if ska gets 'big' the only downside would be an 'unhip' crowd. Nothing I hate more than seeing pits at a ska show. But I guess they're much worse things than ska getting big...God forbid bands should get paid a little better than they have been. I think ska is an internationally recognized genre of music. It's anti-racist messages and its 30+ year old roots suggest that whether it DOES get big or not, there will always be a place for ska in the world." Ben Rosenfield of the Beatdowns

Not that I am trying to compare ska to anything, but who remembers

industrial music. Do you remember when grunge died and there was that hiatus where everyone said "What's next?" A lot of people turned to industrial which had already been around for a few years. Now look at it, the people that were true to that scene are still there and the 'trendy' folk are now all gone. Besides, the industrial people faced the same problem as we ska fans are. They all say that bands like Nine Inch Nails only scratch the surface to 'true' industrial. Much like many newer ska fans of today...they've heard of LGB and the Toasters, but do they know the Skatalites or any other first wave bands.

One of the other problems with ska becoming mainstream is its outlets. Where can a band turn to when they want to get their music played. Most radio stations are under pressure from record labels to play major label artists. Since there are no major label ska bands, they don't get played. The only time I hear ska on the radio is on KKFI 90.1fm (Skinhead Moonstomp Tuesday nights 10-12) You would think that with ska's following getting bigger, you would hear it more. "...it sucks that the bands that have been around for years aren't getting recognized. The Skatalites, The Toasters, Let's go Bowling. All My favorites aren't getting any recognition." Melanie from the Anklebiters.

Just remember stay true to your scene whatever it is, the 'losers' will come and go, and in the end, you'll have the satisfaction of saying "I was there in the beginning."

"...Just don't mosh next to me while I'm skanking." Melanie

Brandon: who's cuter MTX or Green Day?

Jim: We can't say-

Dr.: I don't want to say Green Day isn't cute, they're adorable as Muppets.

After a little conversation:

Joel: I'll go out on a limb here, I think we're pretty darn cute. Who's cuter Dr. Frank or Jimmy Smits.

Jim: To all of our beautiful and ugly customers, we love you. It's about diversity.

Brandon: How many push-ups does MTX do per day?

Jim: Does lifting the Chicken Nugget to my mouth count.

Dr.: there is no word that describes how few push-ups we do in a day.

Wendy's or McDonald's Nuggets?

Jim: Are you Crazy? McDonald's.

Joel: And as far as Pepsi versus coke goes-

Dr.: Pepsi bad, Coke good. That's the only opinion I'm going to express.

Pepsi tastes bad, and they've convinced kids by using their idols like Michael J. Fox, that it is "hip" to drink it.

Brandon: As NOFX has been sponsored by Airwalk, if Pepsi approached MTX to drink Pepsi on stage for one million dollars, would you do it.

Dr.: A million dollars is pretty convincing, in some situations, you need to suspend your beliefs. You know Cybil Shepard was the meat lady, and it turned out that she is a vegetarian.

Brandon: NOFX would just put Airwalk sticker on their regular shoes.

Dr.: Those guys are irreverent, they are so irreverent, hats off to you guys.

Joel: I want Frank to tell the anecdote about the Brazilian tour Pepsi was going to sponsor a couple years ago.

Dr.: I know you won't believe this but Pepsi booked a double bill, us and Vixen.

Brandon: Please say you accepted.

Dr.: Well Yeah, of Course.

Joel: Unfortunately it fell through.

Anything else you've always wanted to say.

Dr.: Love is like oxygen, you get to much, you get too high, not enough then you die.

Joel: I can't top that.

Jim: where's that? (He was getting directions)

Jim Joel, and Dr. Frank

